

United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota

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Man Sentenced for Drug Transportation and Re-entry of Deported Alien

BISMARCK - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 26, 2010, Luis Alberto Gomez-Hernandez, 29, of Mexico was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and re-entry of deported alien. Gomez-Hernandez pleaded guilty to the charges on May 7, 2010.

Judge Hovland sentenced Gomez-Hernandez to serve one year and one day in federal prison, to be followed by one year of supervised release. Gomez-Hernandez was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

On March 3, 2010, Gomez-Hernandez was driving a motor vehicle eastbound on I-94 in Billings County, North Dakota. Gomez-Hernandez was stopped by the North Dakota Highway Patrol for a traffic violation. Within the vehicle Gomez-Hernandez was driving, a law enforcement officer discovered 41 pounds of marijuana, which Gomez-Hernandez had obtained in the state of Washington. Gomez-Hernandez was to be paid \$3500 to transport the marijuana to Minnesota. Law enforcement officers also discovered

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Gomez-Hernandez was illegally present in the United States, and he had previously been deported from the United States around January 16, 2009.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement,

North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Assistant United States Attorney David Hagler prosecuted the case.